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SENSITIVE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED



DIA SPOT REPORT

C-120/DI2A1

88A

DATE: 30 Oct 73

TIME: 0645 EST

SUBJECT: Two Amphibious Ships with Naval Infantry on Board
Enter Mediterranean

REFERENCE: RUI 300818Z Oct 73

1. (C/NFD) At 0525Z 30 October, two Soviet ALLIGATOR-class tank landing ships transited southbound through the Turkish Strait raising the number of ships in the Mediterranean Squadron to 96.

2. (C/NFD) Approximately 150 naval infantry, five armored personnel carriers and six trucks were observed on the deck of one ship. No vehicles were observed on the other ship. However, approximately 50 naval infantry were observed on deck.

DIA REVIEWED 06-Dec-2010: SANITIZED FOR RELEASE IN PART

PREPARED BY

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Morning News Summary

The New York Times

David Binder discusses the arrival of Ismail Fahmi in Washington and the current talks he is having with you. A report from Cairo said Ismail was understood to have instructions to stress that there could be no peace negotiations until the Israelis withdrew to the positions they had at the first cease-fire on October 22. (A-1)

John Finney covers the movement of the U.S. attack carrier Hancock in what was described by the Defense Department as a periodic demonstration of seapower. (A-1)

James Clarity indicates that the newly installed Thai Government intends to accelerate efforts to improve relations with China and North Vietnam. (A-3)

Alvin Shuster says that European officials are expressing surprise and irritation over Washington's criticism of their lack of support in the Middle East war. (A-14)

At the United Nations, the Soviet Union said today that it would share the costs for the new UN peace force in the Middle East so long as Moscow considered it was acting in a lawful and legitimate way. (A-19)

The Washington Post

Murray Marder writes that the U.S. is serving as a middleman between the Arabs and Israelis and at the same time communicating with the Soviets. According to participants at yesterday's briefing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, you told the members that the U.S. is in a better position than the Soviets to operate as a diplomatic intermediary because we can talk with both sides. (A-1)

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A picture of you and Egyptian acting Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi appears on page A-1.

The Chairman of the Mobil Oil Corporation has warned that the Arab cut-back in oil exports will begin to have "very serious" effects by the end of November. He feels the announced plan to redirect oil supplies within the states could increase, rather than relieve the problem. (A-3)

The NATO-Warsaw Pact negotiations resume today in Vienna under a shadow of the Middle East situation and questions the war has raised about the chances for a durable East-West detente. Heading the U.S. delegation is Stanley Resor, while Alek Khlestov heads the Soviet delegation. Khlestov is expected to be replaced by a military specialist. (A-13)

George Will writes that the events of the Middle East crisis fall into a familiar pattern of a Cold War event. Only the dangerously obscure theology of detente is new, and regarding this theology the Soviet Union is atheistic. (A-14)

Joseph Kraft reports from Tel Aviv that just below the cabinet level, hard feelings about President Nixon and you are beginning to mount. There is a growing sense that the President wants detente to offset Watergate and is prepared to sacrifice Israeli interests in order to give Americans the feeling there is harmony between himself and Brezhnev. Because of the events surrounding the cease-fire, Prime Minister Meir is vulnerable and if her bets on the President and you don't pay off in peace negotiations, she will be in trouble. Waiting in the wings is General Sharon. If his influence mounts and Washington's declines, a new outbreak of fighting cannot be excluded. (A-15)

Victor Zorza writes that North Vietnamese strength in South Vietnam has increased by 70,000 men since January. In addition, large numbers of tanks, antiaircraft guns, and missiles have been sent south. This information was "leaked" to the press, with Hanoi being the real target. The purpose of the story was to warn Hanoi that "even" American intelligence officials were "not certain" how President Nixon would react to a Communist offensive. If the President does not force Saigon to comply with the cease-fire, Hanoi will itself use force, sooner rather than later. (A-15)

The Baltimore Sun

James Keat reports on U.S. officials' comments concerning NATO's performance during the Middle East crisis. U.S. officials reportedly say that the issue of NATO's obligations to aid the U.S. in coping with a direct or indirect move by the Soviet Union would become an important element in talks already under way on the future of the alliance. (A-4)